

## Health Risk Behaviors Among Grades 7-8

### Montana Grades 7-8 and High School Comparisons of Selected Elements

*Sources: 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2005 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (OPI)*

<b>Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data</b> (percent of students who...)	<b>Grades 7-8<sup>1</sup></b>				<b>Montana High School 2005<sup>2</sup></b>
	<b>1999</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2005</b>	
Carried a weapon in the past 30 days	25.7	24.3	22.1	24.5	21.4
Carried a gun in the past 30 days	12.3	12.9	10.8	11.5	9.0
Carried a weapon on school property in the past 30 days	8.4	5.9	6.2	5.5	10.2
Did not go to school in the past 30 days because they felt unsafe	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.2	4.2
Were in a physical fight in the past 12 months	46.1	40.3	40.3	41.1	30.5
Actually attempted suicide in the past 12 months	13.3	15.9	12.8	12.2	10.3
Ever smoked a cigarette (lifetime use)	53.9	46.5	40.4	34.9	55.4
Are "current" smokers (smoked on 1 or more of the previous 30 days)	21.7	15.8	13.2	11.4	20.1
Ever smoked daily (at least 1 cigarette every day for 30 days)	16.5	10.2	10.2	8.3	15.2
Are "frequent" smokers (smoked on 20 or more of the previous 30 days)	6.7	4.7	3.8	2.4	8.8
Are "current" smokeless tobacco users (used chew or smokeless tobacco on 1 or more of the previous 30 days)	8.8	7.4	6.6	6.5	14.8
Ever had consumed alcohol (lifetime alcohol use)	68.0	63.2	61.3	55.8	77.8
Are "current" alcohol users (drank alcohol on 1 or more of the previous 30 days)	32.9	30.2	27.1	22.9	48.6
"Binge drink" (episodic heavy drinking, consuming 5 or more drinks at one occasion)	20.1	17.9	15.1	11.9	34.4

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	<b>1999</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2005</b>	
Ever used marijuana (lifetime marijuana use)	23.3	21.0	19.4	15.1	41.7
Are "current" marijuana users (used marijuana 1 or more times in the previous 30 days)	13.3	12.5	11.2	8.5	22.3
Ever used inhalants (lifetime inhalant use)	19.2	15.4	16.9	15.0	15.4
Ever used methamphetamines (lifetime use)	7.5	5.7	4.6	2.8	8.3
Ever had sexual intercourse	21.4	19.3	20.2	18.6	43.6
Are currently sexually active (had sexual intercourse in the past 3 months)	10.3	9.7	9.4	8.3	31.2
Of those who ever had sex, the percent who are currently abstinent (no sexual intercourse in the past 3 months)	46.6	44.3	47.1	49.9	29.4
Of those who ever had sex, the percent who used alcohol or drugs before last sexual intercourse	31.8	37.8	32.8	29.4	29.4
Are attempting to lose weight	40.4	42.4	42.5	42.6	42.6
Participated in vigorous physical activity (3+ days in past 7)	76.8	73.4	71.8	73.4	65.0
Watch 3 or more hours of TV on a school night	31.6	28.9	30.7	29.8	26.3
Used alcohol before age 13	47.9	43.4	40.2	35.5	27.8
Smoked a cigarette before age 13	32.3	25.5	21.3	17.4	17.6
Tried marijuana before age 13	16.4	13.6	14.2	10.4	11.2
Had sexual intercourse before age 13	11.3	9.6	10.9	10.1	5.1

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<sup>1</sup> These data represent the Grades 7-8 respondents only.

<sup>2</sup> These data are statistically valid and can be used to make inferences about the health risk behaviors of all high school students in all high schools in Montana.